2002

Spring

NCNA *Journal*

NCNA Journal

Collectable Kindling

Small Change

Spring 2002

North Carolina Numismatic Association

North Carolina Numismatic Association

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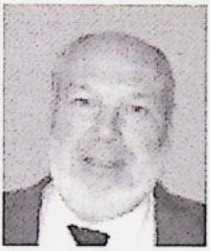

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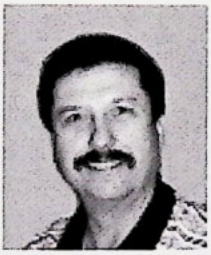

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NCNA Journal

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Authors: The *Journal* welcomes short, original articles, reviews, club news, opinions, letters or similar items of numismatic interest. Please submit to the editor. All correspondence will be answered. Issue deadlines are February 15, May 15, August 10, November 15.

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From the President

Bob Schreiner

American Numismatic Association President John Wilson and his wife Nancy will be guests at our Convention, Oct 4-6. Anyone who has met John knows there could not be a more enthusiastic supporter of the hobby. He and Nancy visit many shows each year, and exhibit, present a YN or other program, or otherwise contribute to the events of the show. With ANA's Spring Convention coming to Charlotte next year, we expect that John will share with us some of the special plans for that event.

Plans for Charlotte ANA in March 2003 are progressing. The Charlotte Coin Club leadership was at the comparable show this year in Jacksonville, Florida, as was Halbert Carmichael and myself. We met Brenda Bishop, ANA's convention planner, and helped staff a table to promote the Charlotte convention. The Jacksonville show was widely criticized as being located in an area with poor numismatic draw, and the attendance supported this. I asked one prominent paper money dealer what he thought about Charlotte as a location, and he was very positive. I expected to hear grumbling, and was pleasantly surprised. ANA's experiment to hold the Spring show from Thursday through Saturday appears to have concluded unsuccessfully. The Charlotte show will return to the customary Friday-Sunday schedule.

You'll find a call to exhibit at our convention elsewhere in this issue. We especially challenge NCNA clubs to prepare a display about their club, its activities, and the special interests of its members. Show off your stuff. Do you have ideas for programs or anything else about the show? Send me a note at POB 2331, Chapel Hill, NC 27515-2331 or email rcschreiner@mindspring.com. We want to build this show, increase attendance, and support more dealers.

The number of local shows is increasing. There are now six shows each year in Raleigh, my region. Unfortunately, not all shows are being promoted in the *Journal*. I just heard about a one day show in Fayetteville in early June, sadly after it was over. Submit your show dates to the *Journal* editor—let's get our fine shows on the record.

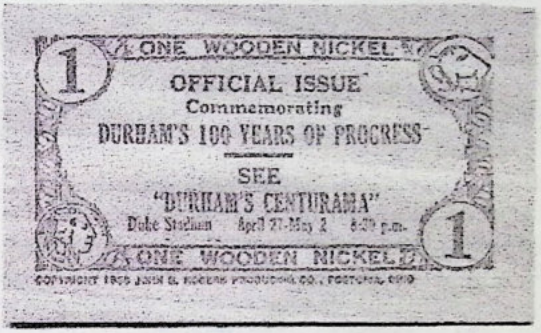
B.S

Collectable Kindling

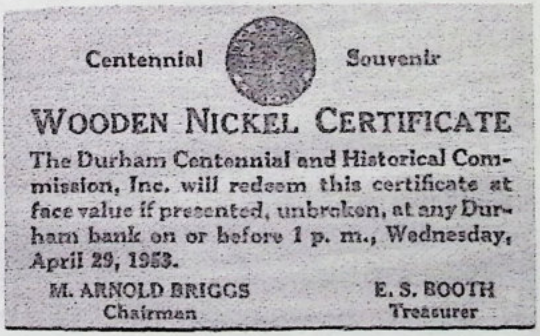
by David Provost

My ongoing pursuit of interesting numismatic commemoratives often leads me down paths that I never thought I would travel. I'm frequently tempted to stray from my core collections when I come across a collectable that is related somehow to one of my primary interests. Case in point, commemorative wooden money flats.

It all started very innocently a year or so back when I came across a wooden nickel flat that commemorated an event that was also commemorated by a national commemorative medal produced by the U.S. Mint. Congress authorized a medal for the town of Greenwich, Connecticut to help it celebrate its 300th anniversary. In addition to the medal, the local anniversary committee also had produced a wooden nickel flat as a fundraiser and souvenir of the town's celebrations. Of course, once I had one piece in my possession, I began to search out others.



Wooden money was originally born out of necessity. When the Citizen's Bank of Tenino, Washington failed in 1931, the local merchants lost their source of small change. The next nearest bank was too far away to be convenient for the Tenino businesses (more than 30 miles over ill-suited mountain roads), so the town's Chamber of Commerce approved the issuance of a local currency. The small denomination currency was printed on small, flat pieces of wood by the local newspa-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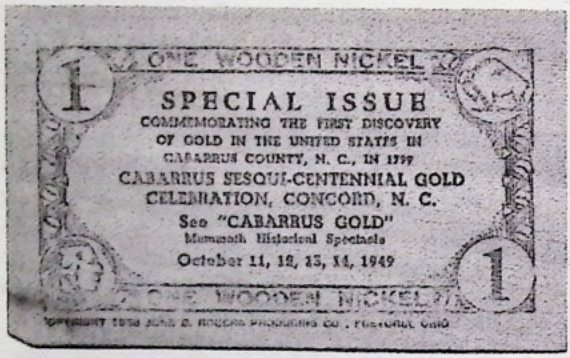
M. ARNOLD BRIGGS
Chairman
E. S. BOOTH
Treasurer

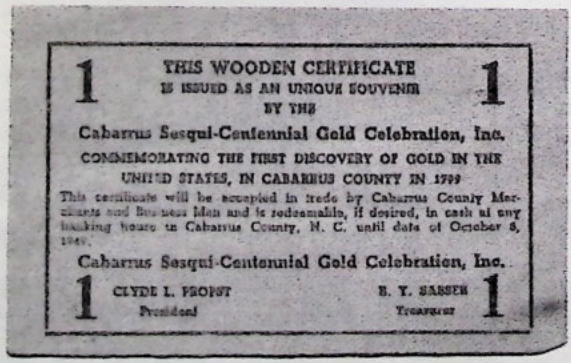
per. With the issuance of this "money," a local crisis was averted and a new form of currency was born!

Other early issues of wooden money also served very utilitarian purposes (i.e., they were produced to meet the needs of local commerce). Eventually, however, the medium was "corrupted" and became a common form of commemorative "souvenir money" produced by cities and towns for local anniversaries, celebrations, fairs and other similar events. After the J.R. Rogers Company of Fostoria, Ohio received a copyright for its wooden money design in 1938, the use of the pieces exploded and became a common component of local celebrations across the country.



Most of the wooden flats are rectangular in shape, measuring about four inches long and two and one-half inches wide. They typically have printing on both sides and most are printed in one color. I've got pieces printed in green, blue, black, brown, orange, and red in my collection so far. When a town's flats were issued in multiple denominations, a different color was often used to distinguish between them.

The obverse of each piece typically carries the denomination and name of the commemorative event. The reverse usually carried the instructions for redemption and some information about the event or group sponsoring it. The design quality of the pieces varies greatly - from simple, mostly text designs to more complex multi-graphic layouts.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1
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Treasurer
1

The pieces were typically redeemable for cash at local banks and businesses. However, they almost always carried an expiration date for redemption (often tied directly to the conclusion of the celebratory events). Once the date passed, the woods became nothing more than souvenirs. The birth of the phrase "Don't take any wooden nickels!" can be tied directly to the expiring

nature of these commemorative pieces.

I've found a few other flats that have direct tie-ins to my commemorative coin and medal collections, and I've come across a bunch for a variety of city and town centennial, sesquicentennial, etc celebrations. I don't have very many of the woods as of yet, maybe 15 or 20, but they've already added a nice new dimension to my commemorative collections.

I've included a few images of North Carolina related wood flats that I've come across so far. I know there are others, so you probably haven't heard the last from me on the topic of wooden money commemoratives (AKA "Collectable Kindling"). Happy Collecting!

Dave Provost, in addition to serving as first VP of NCNA, is president of the Raleigh Coin Club, and founder of Carolina-TAMS, a new token and medal club (PO Box 354, Morrisville, NC 27560)

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—— For More Information ——

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Program Features *Coin World* Editor

Collecting History: How to Explore the Past Through Paper Money, Coins, Tokens, and other Spendables

Beth Deisher was the featured speaker at a numismatic program in Chapel Hill on May 4. Deisher tied money collecting to history exploration—a coin is an artifact from an earlier time that can trigger an interest in the broader history of its place of origin. The day-long event was the fourth in an annual series sponsored in part by NCNA. The symposium had presentations for advanced collectors and for beginners. Neil Fulghum, keeper of the Gallery of the North Carolina Collection, part of the Academic Libraries at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, presented his research on the signers of North Carolina's Civil War State-issued currency. David Provost, vice president of NCNA, talked about ways to store and preserve one's collection. Other presenters including Harry Corrigan, Kent Woodson, and Bob Schreiner, gathered from the NCNA and Raleigh Coin Club membership, offered advice on local, regional, and national clubs and other resources for collectors.

Blue Ridge 2002

Northwest Georgia Trade and Convention Center
Exit 333, I-75, Dalton, Georgia

August 16-18

Bourse Chair: Dick Hamel, 904-730-2267, dickhamel1@aol.com
Bourse Info: Gary Overton, 321-779-4566
gary-overton@prodigy.net

175 Tables

Educational Forums

Numismatic Association Meetings

NCNA Clubs on the Web

Carteret Numismatic Society	www.clis.com/cns
Lower Cape Fear Coin Club	www.money.org/clubs/lcfcc.html
Raleigh Coin Club	www.money.org/clubs/rcc-index.html.
Winston-Salem Coin Club	http://winstonsalemcoinclub.org/
NCNA	www.ncnaonline.org
Blue Ridge Numismatic Association	www.brna.org

Does your club have a web site? Send the editor an e-mail at rcschreiner@mindspring.com so he can add it to the list.

Erratum

An editor's error in the Winter 2002 issue of the NCNA *Journal* cut off the end of an article. The last sentence of "North Carolina's Wallpaper Note?" is: The note is, however, an attractive example of how the South used available resources to produce an interesting and appealing piece of paper money.

George Rogers

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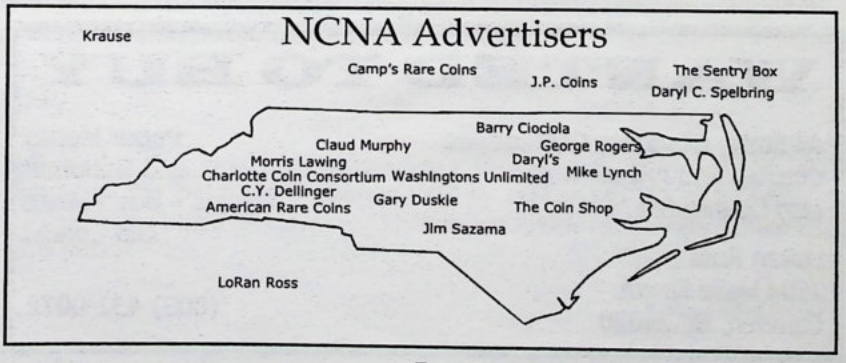

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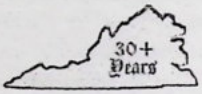

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Small Change (parts 3 and 4)

by Halbert Carmichael

France

France and Italy pose interesting similarities and contrasts. Both countries pride themselves on their artistic tradition. Both countries have produced attractive coins, but the Italians have shown more imagination in the coin designs.

France suffered less damage from World War II than most of Europe. France also made no attempt to use precious metal for its coins, so it was able to start off with a stable coinage in a range of denominations from 20 centimes to 10 francs in 1945. However, inflation set in. By 1954 it was necessary to make coins up to 100 francs. The value of a given denomination decreased continually. It was necessary to make increasingly larger denominations.

The French 5 franc coin was the first example I saw of the use of aluminum bronze. This is an alloy of 92% copper and 8% aluminum. The alloy has a gold color, is easy to fabricate, and doesn't tarnish.

In 1960 France responded to decades of inflation by revaluing the unit of currency, the franc. One new franc was worth one hundred old francs. They made the new coins of the same size and metal as the old ones of the same value. That meant they could continue to use the old coins. The poor tourist was left with a handful of coins some of which said 10 francs and some which said 10 centimes. If they were the same size, they were worth the same.

The French also tried to introduce a silver five franc coin. It didn't circulate widely, and I had friends tell me of banks which refused to give them out in change.

For real confusion try putting the story of French coinage together from the section in Krause and Mischler. They have all 10 franc coins listed together whether they are 10 old francs or 10 new francs.

Italy

Italy on the other hand has continued to suffer inflation. Its largest coin in 1946 was 1 lire, but that had risen to 100 L by 1954 and to 500 lire by 1958. Italy never revalued its currency. Therefore it strikes even larger denominations today.

(Continued on page 13)

Coin Show Calendar

Local chairs please notify the editor of your plans as soon as possible.

Ł Verify show details with the sponsor before driving long distances.

Bob Schreiner
PO Box 2331
Chapel Hill, NC 27515-2331
919-929-7668 (evenings)
rcschreiner@mindspring.com

June 2002

22-23 Raleigh Coin Club Show. Kerr Scott Building, Sate Fairgrounds. Bob Schreiner, bourse chair, 919-929-7668.

July 2002

12-14 Peach State Coin Show. Cobb Galleria Centre, Two Galleria Parkway, Atlanta. Bob O'Brien, 770-772-4359.

27-28 Heart of Carolina Coin, Stamp & Money Show. Ramada Inn, I-85 exit 143 & Hwy 162 S. Barry Ciociola, 919-479-6878.

31 - Aug 4 ANA World's Fair of Money, New York City. Brenda Bishop/ Rachel Irish, 719-632-2646.

August 2002

3-4 S-R Valley Coin Show. American Legion Building, 710 Apperson Dr., Salem. Emmett Yonce, 540-992-5331.

16-18 Collectors' Showcase of America. Kerr Scott Building, NC State Fairgrounds. George Rogers, 919-556-8300, wakeforestcoins@earthlink.net.

16-18 Blue Ridge Numismatic Association Convention. Northwest Georgia Trade and Convention Center, Dalton. Exit 333, I-75. Bourse chair: Dick Hamel, 904-730-2267, dickhamel1@aol.com.

31-Sep 1 Interstate Coin Club Show. Hagerstown, MD, R K (Bob) Brechbiel, 301-739-5414.

October 2002

4-6 44th NCNA Convention and Coin Show. Hickory Metro Convention Center. Halbert Carmichael, bourse chair, 919-832-4128.

12 Stanly County Coin Club Show. R. L. Holbrook Pavilion, Gleen Street, Albemarle. Roger Gibson, 704-982-3408.

19-20 Wilmington Fall Show, Lower Cape Fear Coin Club. American Legion, 902 Pine Grove Dr., Wilmington. Larry DeBellis, 910-799-1676, ltcoins@aol.com.

25-27 South Carolina Numismatic Association 30th annual convention. Crown Plaza Hotel, Roper Mountain Rd. at I-385, Greenville, SC. Sam Norris, 864-855-2150, 864-269-0375.

November 2002

1-3 Tennessee State Numismatic Society. Chattanooga. Dennis Schafleutzel, 423-842-5527.

9 Lake Norman Coin & Currency Shows. National Guard Armory, N. Broad St., Hwy. 115 S., Mooresville. Gary Duskie, (704) 660-6581.

7-10 Suburban Washington Baltimore Show. Baltimore. Gordon Berg, 301-424-1876, berg1876@aol.com.

16-17 Carolina Coin & Stamp Shows. Holshouser Buildng, NC State Fairgrounds. Dot Hendrick, 919- 828-9450.

December 2002

14 Rowan County Coin Club's 5th Annual Before Christmas Coin Show. Salisbury Civic Center, Boundary Street, Salisbury; 9:00 am — 5:00pm. Dick Sattazahn, 704-209-3034 or rsattazahn@carolina.rr.com.

March 2003

21-23 ANA's Spring Money Show. Charlotte. Jerry Sajbel. Watch this space for updates!

Mickey Smith

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full page $45 per issue of $150 per year

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(Continued from page 9)

Like France, Italy has a long, strong artistic heritage. Italy's coins reflect this. The little aluminum coins may not have been worth much, but they were beauties to behold. The simple inscriptions: a number for the denomination and Republica Italiana in were set off by a simple artistically done object in the field of the coin: a bee, a bunch of grapes, a boat's tiller, a dolphin, a Pegasus, an idealized blacksmith (how many blacksmiths work in the nude?)

The later, higher denominations were struck in Acmonital, a fancy name for stainless steel. This metal is very hard, and the coins have very low relief.

By 1958 the need for larger and larger denominations was met by what is to me the most beautiful Italian coin. The obverse has the denomination, the name of the country, and three sailing ships (Columbus?). The reverse is what really sets the coin apart. A finely rendered portrait of a woman in Renaissance dress is surrounded by nineteen shields. The shields represent the nineteen regions into which the country had just been divided. The nineteen regions were made by grouping the countries ninety-five provinces. The whole undertaking was an attempt to decentralize the government. The shields are unlabeled, but they are arranged clockwise from Val d'Aosta in the north to Calabria in the south followed by Sicily and Sardinia. In contrast to the silver five franc, the 500 lire did circulate. My first one was picked up in change.

Italy's refusal to revaluate led to the situation of the Zeccha, the Italian mint, not producing small change which was still needed for certain transactions. The Italians responded by using small candies as small change.

Norway

Norway, Denmark and Sweden all have the kron, or crown, as their monetary unit. They do have minor variations in the spelling. The kron is divided into 100 ore. The o has either a slash through it or an umlaut indicating that it is pronounced: ooor.

The first thing that struck me about the Norwegian coins from the mid-1940's was the use of iron. The second thing was that the coins which ran from 1 ore to 1 kronor were split into two series. The small denominations were in iron and were solid. The larger denominations were in zinc and had holes. The third thing was the spelling of the country's name: Norge.

When stability returned after the end of World War II, the small coins were

(Continued on page 19)

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Calling All Exhibitors

Before you know it, the annual NCNA Convention will be here! One of the highlights of the show for many visitors is the display of educational exhibits mounted by NCNA members. Now is the time to begin planning your exhibit!

I am hopeful that our convention will once again be host to an interesting and informative presentation of numismatic collectibles. Last year's crop included exhibits featuring obsolete NC currency, exonumia from the 1892-93 Columbian Exposition, medals of the US Merchant Marine, counterfeit and spurious 19th century notes, world coins and more! What will this year's convention bear witness to?

Whether you're a first-time exhibitor or a seasoned veteran, I'd like to hear from you with your ideas for this year's convention. Exhibits covering any area of numismatics are welcome — coins or notes, stock certificates or medals, tokens or numismatic literature — it's up to you! Awards will be given for the top competitive exhibits and the popular People's Choice Award will once again be presented.

Call to NCNA Clubs

At last year's convention, I challenged NCNA member clubs to prepare a club exhibit as the Raleigh Coin Club had done in 2001. I have heard back from one club so far, I hope I hear from several more! What better way is there to promote the hobby along with your local club than to present an exhibit and leave a few flyers about your club nearby?

Questions?

If you have any questions about exhibiting at the NCNA Convention, or would like an Exhibitor's Registration Form, please contact me by email at dpncna@aol.com or send a note to Dave Provost, PO Box 354, Morrisville, NC 27560. I will try to help you in any way I can.

Charlotte ANA 2003 Dates Changed

The dates for Charlotte's 2003 ANA Convention are now Friday-Sunday, March 21-23. Host clubs are the Charlotte Coin Club and NCNA.

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ANA President to Attend Convention

John Wilson, president of the American Numismatic Association, and his wife, Nancy, are scheduled to attend the NCNA Convention October 4-6 in Hickory, NC. The Wilsons attend many shows each year and are very active promoters of the hobby through exhibits, talks, and service to the numismatic community. While not confirmed at press time, it is expected that they will have a presentation on Saturday, October 5. They will certainly be available to meet and talk with individually.

Proposed Bylaws Change

The NCNA Board is proposing to modify our bylaws about elections. In cases where there are no contests in any of the positions, it is proposed that no ballot be sent, and the Board declare the slate elected. If any position is contested, the election would be held as usual.

Comments on this change may be sent to NCNA, POB 2331, Chapel Hill, NC 27515-2331. The change will be discussed at the membership meeting at the convention on October 5

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made of bronze and the larger ones of cupro-nickel, but they still had holes.

In 1957 a new king, Olav V, came to the throne. A new coinage was called for, and the Norwegians outdid themselves. The set of designs had the king's monogram on the obverse and an animal on the other side: a squirrel on the one ore, a black cock on the two, a moose (elk to the Europeans) on the five, a bee on the ten, a bird on the twenty-five, a dog on the fifty, and a horse on the krone. The black cock coin was in a display of "Birds on Coins" in the Smithsonian for many years where it was misidentified as a capercaille.

Denmark

Denmark used the opposite system from what Norway used: holes for smaller denominations, and the larger denominations were solid.

Denmark's coinage was remarkable for its stability and lack of imagination. They changed designs only when the monarch died, and Danish kings were a long-lived lot. They also used repetitious names: Frederick VIII was succeeded by Christian X who was succeeded by Frederick IX.

Denmark did strike some silver commemorative coins. Several involved milestones of the crown princess, now queen, Margrethe. One had a map of Greenland.

Sweden

Sweden is another country with a spelling that is different from the English Sweden: Sverge.

Not being directly involved in World War II, Sweden could afford to use precious metals in its major coins. Even then the silver was only 400 fine. The designs showed little imagination: a monogram or three crowns on one side and the denomination on the other.

Sweden did use portraits of its kings on the coins from one krona up. Once again they had long-lived kings. Just two kings, Gustav V and Gustav VI Adolf reigned from 1907 to 1973.
Iceland, Island on the coins, is a small country (population less than that of Raleigh) with what was a simple coinage. Their krona is divided into 100 aurar. But if you have only one of the latter it is called an eyrir. Coinage from 1 eyrir through 2 kronor was struck in base metals with simple designs. In 1968 they struck a nickel 50 kronor showing the parliament building commemorat-

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ing fifty years of independence from Denmark. Later Icelandic coinage has been more imaginative.

Finland

The first thing you notice about Finnish coinage is the name: Suomen Tasavalta. The Finns speak a language that is not closely related to the languages of the rest of Europe.

Finland has a monetary unit called a markka. Its subdivision is one penni. There are 100 pennia in one markka. The plural of markka is markkaa. Finland has suffered from its close proximity to Russia, having gotten its independence only in 1917 and remaining in the sphere of strong Soviet influence until recently. In spite of this it has a strong democratic tradition.

The postwar coinage was a miserable set of small denominations in base metal until the revaluation in 1963. At that time they brought out a handsome and functional set ranging from one penni to one markka. These coins had a heraldic lion standing on a sword and brandishing a sword and a stylized tree on the reverse. They later added a 5 markkaa with an icebreaker on it.

In 1967 the Finns celebrated fifty years of independence with a silver ten markkaa coin. The coin shows five birds. After many years of searching for the identity of the birds, I found that the designer intended for them to be ospreys. They don't look like the ospreys I've seen.

Spitzbergen

An interesting and rare item of Scandinavian numismatics is the set of tokens struck for the Soviet coal mining concession on Spitzbergen, an island chain in the Arctic Ocean. The legend is in Cyrillic and the denominations are in kopeks.

A continuing series on major coinages of the world in the 25 years post WW II. Halbert Carmichael, past president of NCNA and editor of the Journal *(after this issue) is a frequent contributor to these pages.*

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